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A new glyptomeroid species of *Lathrobium* from the Aurunci Mountains, Latium (Coleoptera Staphylinidae)

Abstract - *Lathrobium auruncum* **n. sp.** from the Aurunci Mts (central Italy) is described. The new species is closely related to *L. oblitum* Pace, 1977 from Mount Viglio (Lazio-Abruzzi), which differs in some external characters such as a smaller body, more elongate head, shorter pronotum and elytra, and distincte male genitalia (i. e., smaller aedeagus, different shape of dorsal and ventral laminae and of the inner sac). It is suggested, the presence of several endemic species on Aurunci Mts is in relation to the prolonged isolation of these mountains, which were islands separated from the mainlnand.

Riassunto - *Una nuova specie gliptomeroide di* Lathrobium *dei Monti Aurunci, Lazio (Coleoptera Staphylinidae).*
Gli autori descrivono *Lathrobium auruncum* **n. sp.** dei Monti Aurunci nel Lazio, assai simile a *L. oblitum* Pace, 1977 del Monte Viglio in Abruzzo, da cui differisce per alcuni caratteri esteriori (dimensioni minori, capo più allungato, pronoto ed elitre più corti) e per i caratteri sessuali (edeago più piccolo, diversa conformazione di lama dorsale e ventrale, sacco interno). Si avanza l'ipotesi che la presenza di numerosi endemismi sui monti Aurunci sia dovuta al fatto che tali montagne sono state per lungo tempo isole, separate dalla terraferma.

Key-words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, *Lathrobium*, new species, Latium.

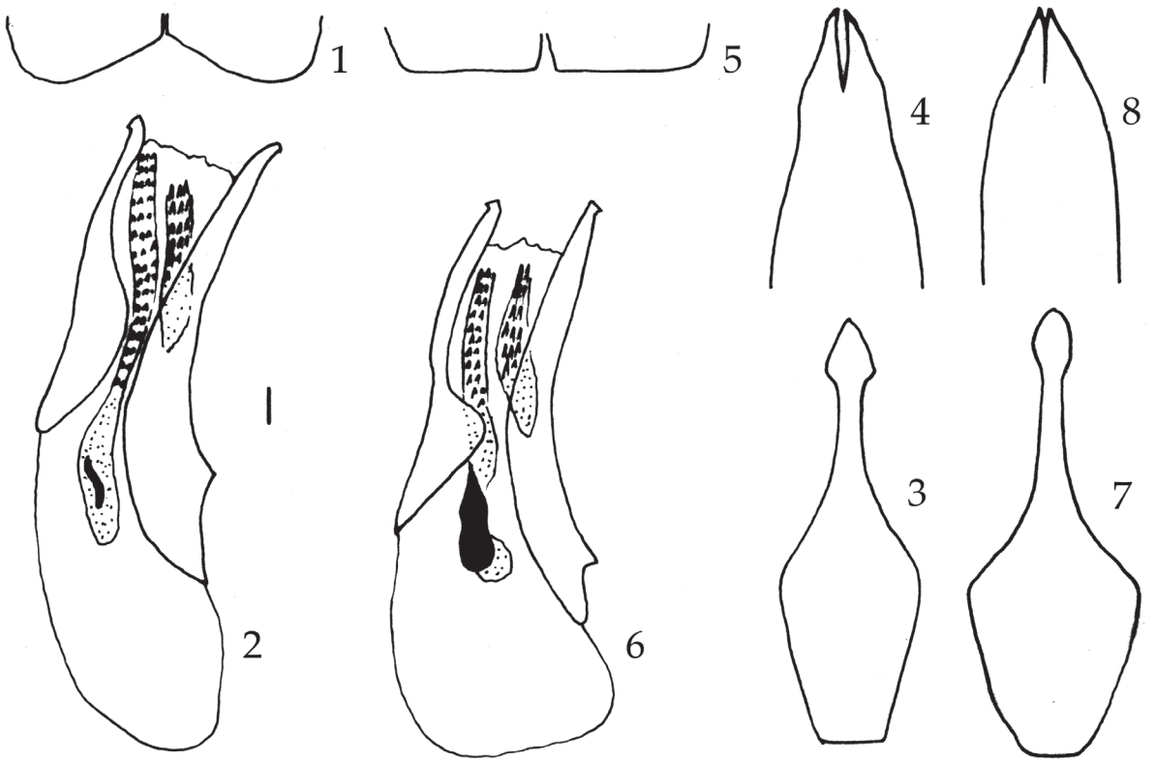
Lathrobium auruncum n. sp.

Type series. Holotype ♂**:** Lazio, Monte Sant'Angelo (Frosinone), R. Consorti leg. 15.IX.2002 (in coll. Bordoni, Florence); paratypes: Monte Sant'Angelo (Frosinone), 1250 m, cacuminal beechwood, P. Magrini leg. IV.1996, 1 ♂ (in coll. Magrini, Florence); Monte Sant'Angelo, P. Magrini leg. 14.VI.1996, 1 ♀ (in coll. Bordoni); Monte Sant'Angelo, Formia, Latina, 1300 m, A. Degiovanni leg. 3.V.2008, 1 ♀ (in coll. Bordoni).

Description. Body length 11 mm; length from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra 4.5 mm. Very similar to *L. oblitum* Pace from which it is distinguished by the body length (forebody 4.5 mm in *L. auruncum* and 4.7 mm in *L. oblitum*), by the more slender head also displaying a more denser punctuation, narrower clipeus, eyes bearing a few ommatidia, antennae with longer articles, longer distance between the cephalic pits, pronotum with denser and deeper punctuation, and by the abdominal segments more impressed at the base, with denser punctation.

The distal structure of elytra is very different (figs 1, 5). The conformation of the series of setae on the surface of the sixth sternite similar to that seen in *L. oblitum*. The aedeagus (fig. 6) is 1.66 mm long (1.88 mm in *L. oblitum*) (fig. 2); dorsal and ventral lamina in lateral view (figs. 7, 8) differ from the same in *L. oblitum* (figs 3, 4). The first does not protrude beyond the second, while clearly leans in *L. oblitum*; the ventral lamina is narrower, with the apex almost straight (slightly curved *L. oblitum*); the dorsal lamina is sinuous and the apex is not hooked as in *L. oblitum*. In lateral view it can be seen that both species have an inner sac made of two narrow and elongate areas, one of which, i. e. the left, is covered by several series of scales superimposed one upon another, while the other is covered by setae. Moreover in the new species the inner sac bears a large and dark structure near the base (fig. 6), while in *L. oblitum* it is observed a very minute thickening forming a S (fig. 2). In ventral view, the apex of the ventral lamina appears as in fig. 8. In *L. oblitum*, instead the apex is broader and clearly enlarged in the middle (fig. 4). The dorsal lamina, in dorsal view, has the proximal portion long and narrow, the apex smaller, distally more rounded and more enlarged (fig. 7), compared to *L. oblitum* (fig. 3).

(*) 209° contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae



Figs 1-8. *Lathrobium oblitum* Pace: 1 - posterior margin of elytra; 2 - aedeagus in lateral view; 3 - dorsal lamina in dorsal view; 4 - apical portion of ventral lamina in ventral view. *Lathrobium auruncum* n. sp.: 5 - posterior margin of elytra; 6 - aedeagus in lateral view; 7 - dorsal lamina in dorsal view; 8 - apical portion of ventral lamina in ventral view (8) (bar scale: 0.1 mm).

These differences are not particularly striking singly, but all together suggest to separate the two populations in two species. The geographical and physical characteristics of the two collecting areas also support this thesis.

Notes. Pace (1977) indicated as type locality of *L. oblitum* a beechwood between Filettino and Capistrello, on the northern slope of Mount Viglio, 1500 m a.s.l. This mountain is located on the border dividing Latium and Abruzzo, between the mountains Cantari and Simbruini, whose emergence is late Miocene.

The new species is living on the Aurunci Mts, a small mountain range close to the sea, located behind the Gulf of Gaeta. The area where the specimens were collected is located on a mountain ridge between the provinces of Frosinone and Latina. The presence on the Aurunci Mts of quite a few endemic entities, is possibly related to the late insular condition of this massive. The Ausoni Mts were carbonate island, with Ausoni and Lepini Mts (Volsci system), during the Pliocene and first Pleistocene.

The formation of the Aurunci Mts occurred through a series of tectonic phases. The first, occurred between Oligocene and Miocene, pushed over the carbonatic bedrock a first unit. Later, sandstone and clay sediments were deposited in the depocentral areas (Valle Latina and Valle Ausente). Finally, during the Quaternary, some basins along the coast were formed, filled during the Quaternary marine and continental deposits. The whole area is characterized by deep karst phenomena due to the dissolution of calcium carbonate, caused both by surface and subterranean water (Miele, 2002).

The Aurunci, as well as both other massifs of the Volsci range, host a large number of endemics. Eucavernicolous or endogeous Coleoptera who live under the soil surface were collected both in caves and in beechwood. For example, among the Carabidae *Rhegmatobius petriolii* Magrini & Degiovanni, 2008, *R. bastianinii* Magrini & Casale (in press),

Anillus petriolii Magrini (in press), *Duvalius volscus* Franzini & Franzini, 1984, *D. bertagnii* Magrini, 1998, *D. vannii* Magrini & Sclano, 1998, *D. auruncus* Vigna Taglianti & Magrini, 2008, *D. lydiae* Vigna Taglianti & Magrini, 2008, *Typhloreicheia annamariae* Magrini, 2002, *T. bastianinii* Magrini, 2002; among the Cholevidae *Bathysciola rampinii* Latella, 2002; among the Curculionidae *Raymondionymus pulcherrimus* Magrini, Bastianini & Abbazzi, 2008, *Otiorhynchus bastianinii* Magrini, Meoli & Abbazzi, 2004, *O. avoni* Magrini, Bastianini & Abbazzi, 2008, *O. paulae* Magrini, Bastianini & Abbazzi, 2008.

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